

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all pending claims 1-11 and add new claims 12-31 as follows:

12. (New) A playing card shuffling device comprising:
a card input portion for receiving cards to be shuffled;
a card shuffling portion for receiving cards from the card input portion and
outputting shuffled cards to a card outlet portion; and
the card outlet portion being adapted for coupling to a first output card receiver
when it is desired to remove ^{shuffled} cards one at a time from the shuffling device, and to a ^{the card outlet portion} second output card receiver when it is desired to remove a group of ^{being adapted} shuffled cards at a time ^{for coupling} from the shuffling device.

13. (New) The device of Claim 12 wherein the card outlet portion comprises first alignment features for aligning with corresponding second alignment features on the first output card receiver and the second output card receiver.

14. (New) The device of Claim 13 wherein the first alignment features on the card outlet portion comprise alignment pins.

15. (New) The device of Claim 12 further comprising the second output card receiver coupled to the card outlet portion, the second output card receiver comprising a U-shaped table for receiving shuffled cards from the card outlet portion to facilitate grasping of a group of cards on the U-shaped table.

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16. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ further comprising the first output card receiver coupled to the card outlet portion, the first output card receiver having an output gap for exposing a portion of a single card for removal of cards one at a time from the output gap.

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17. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card outlet portion comprises grip rollers for forwarding one or more cards from the card shuffling portion to the first output card receiver or the second output card receiver coupled to the card outlet portion.

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18. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card shuffling portion comprises movable card compartments, each compartment having an open end, the card shuffling portion further comprising a drivable lever for ejecting one or more cards from a compartment for being forwarded to the first output card receiver or the second output card receiver coupled to the card outlet portion.

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19. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card shuffling portion comprises a rotatable drum having radially arranged compartments.

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20. (New) The device of Claim ⁸~~19~~ wherein the drum is provided with gear teeth around its periphery engaged with the drivable pinion for rotating the drum.

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21. (New) The device of Claim ⁸~~19~~ wherein each compartment comprises a spring with a bend at a free end of the spring to help retain cards within a compartment.

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22. (New) The device of Claim ⁸~~19~~ wherein each compartment comprises opposing walls and an open end, each compartment comprising a retainer spring that is pre-tensioned against one of the walls of the compartments to retain cards within the compartment.

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23. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ further comprising a sensor for recognizing identities of cards.

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24. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card output portion includes clip connectors for connecting the first output card receiver or the second output card receiver to the card outlet portion.

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25. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card outlet portion includes a recess for the first output card receiver or the second output card receiver.

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26. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card outlet portion includes one of alignment pins and holes, and the first output card receiver and second card receiver includes one of alignment pins and holes for coupling to the card outlet portion.

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27. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ wherein the card outlet portion is secured to the first output card receiver or the second output card receiver by means of a screw.

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28. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ further comprising the first output card receiver, the first output card receiver comprising a spring loaded plate urging cards against a wall, the first card receiver further comprising an output gap for removal of one card at a time from the output gap.

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29. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ further comprising the first output card receiver coupled to the card outlet portion.

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30. (New) The device of Claim ¹~~12~~ further comprising the second output card receiver coupled to the card outlet portion.

20 performed comprising the steps of: providing

31. (New) A method ~~perform~~ on a shuffling device, ~~the~~ shuffling device ^{providing} comprising a card input portion for receiving cards to be shuffled; a card shuffling portion for receiving cards from the card input portion and outputting shuffled cards to a card outlet portion; ^{providing a first output card receiver wherein} and the card outlet portion ^{is} being adapted for coupling to a first output card receiver when it is desired to remove ^{shuffled} cards one at a time from the shuffling device and ^{shuffled} to a second output card receiver when it is desired to remove a group of cards at a time from the shuffling device; ^{INS C1} ~~the method comprising:~~ ^{and}

coupling either the first output card receiver or the second card output receiver to a coupling mechanism on the card outlet portion depending on whether it is desired to remove ^{shuffled} cards one at a time from the shuffling device or remove a group of ^{shuffled} cards at a time from the shuffling device.